

**MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH – 287<sup>th</sup> Edition – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Created by Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca)

To use an e-mail address from the MocTel, replace the \* with @.



**Pelly Crossing**

Photo courtesy Bill Maylor [maylw@telus.net](mailto:maylw@telus.net) (In Lloydminster AB)

**FATHER MacNAUGHT**

By Gus Barrett [sourdoughs2@shaw.ca](mailto:sourdoughs2@shaw.ca) (In Qualicum Beach BC)

Father MacNaught was a man of the Cloth,  
As pure as the new fallen snow.  
He was young and virile, and whenever he smiled,  
His face had an angelic glow.  
Young ladies he'd meet, would crawl at his feet,  
If only he'd give them a chance,  
But he'd answered the call, so he sidestepped them all,  
His profession denied him romance.

Then he answered one day, a request from the Bay  
To trek to the tundra and serve,

To carry the Word where it's never been heard,  
To the folks on a native Reserve.  
They built him a home, where the caribou roam,  
They built him a church where they prayed,  
To young Father MacNaught 'twas the land that he'd sought,  
So he hung out his shingle and stayed.

In his collar and frock, he would service his flock,  
And dispense his religious beliefs,  
"Til one day in the cold, he met Flower of Gold,  
The daughter of Nemo, the Chief.  
She was slender and dark with the voice of a lark,  
A magnificent girl of the wild.  
That night, in her dreams, she concocted a scheme,  
To have Father, father her child.

Next morning she rose and got into her clothes,  
And went down to see Father MacNaught,  
Using womanly wiles and her breathtaking smiles,  
She'd accomplish the end that she sought.  
The good Father felt his resistance would melt  
And he knew he would lose if he stayed.  
So before he could falter he ran to his Altar,  
And prayed and he prayed and he prayed.

But despite his resolve, this dilemma to solve,  
And his praying for help from Above,  
He knew in his heart, he was playing a part,  
And, indeed, he was falling in love.  
But he fought the good fight, as he struggled each night,  
While his resistance held by a thread.  
'Til he woke at the dawn of a beautiful morn,  
With her moccasins under his bed.

While Father MacNaught lost the battle he fought,  
And withdrew from his calling in shame.  
He still chose to serve people on the reserve,  
And he's spreading the word, just the same.  
So he and his Flower now huddle for hours,  
With the son that their union has brought,  
In spite of the fact, as a priest he was sacked,  
He's a happy young father, MacNaught.

## **Commissioner's Tea Brings Back Memories this Year**

by Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

June 15, 2009

Parks Canada staff and the ladies of the IODE faced the morning of June 13 with some trepidation. The night before had seen a thunderous downpour in the Klondike with blue/white lightning dancing across the hills, and the first look at Saturday's weather did not appear promising.

Plan B was to move all the sound equipment up onto the balcony that wraps around the ground floor of the Commissioner's Residence and hope for the best in terms of the seating on the lawn for the guests.

As it turned out, the day got steadily better after noon and by 2 o'clock all was well, although it was too late to move the sound equipment again.

At the appointed hour attendance at this annual event was a bit sparse, but it picked up quickly and within half an hour the servers were busily pouring tea and coffee and offering goodies to a packed lawn and balcony as the event got into full swing and the formalities began.

Parks Canada Superintendent Rob Watt was the first speaker. As he is retiring this summer, Watt recapped some of the highlights of his five year mission to the Klondike, which began two weeks before the horrendous fire summer of 2004.

"One of my first tasks was working with the Emergency Measures folks to help create a fire evacuation plan for the City of Dawson. They had one for a flood. I still remember the population was around 1800 people and yet there were over 3000 dogs, cats and horses.

"My first worry was that the fire was getting pretty close to Dredge #4, so how could we protect it. I didn't want to be the new superintendent who let the dredge burn down, so we called a fire crew up from Kluane and they set up a sprinkler system."

Moving from summer heat to winter cold, Watt discovered that nothing in his southwestern Ontario wardrobe was heavy enough for a Dawson City winter and had to upgrade to a parka, boots and heavier pants.

Watt says he found Dawson more welcoming than some places he had lived. He started out in the Maritimes and moved to Ontario as a boy. "After 25 years there I found that people still looked on us as outsiders. Not so in Dawson. Of course the Maritimes are worse. If your grandfather wasn't born there then you were still new in town."

Dawson was, he said, an exciting place to live, People were warm and willing to help each other, It was never boring.

“Where else in Canada would I have met the Governor General and the Prime Minister all in one year? This week we had a session of the territorial legislature and next week the Western and Northern Premiers are meeting here, so you can truly say it’s a happening place.”

IODE president Myrna Butterworth recalled some of the early teas in the 36 year history of the event, before Parks Canada restored the residence. There was no water or power to the building at that time.

“It was quite an effort. We had to set up here on the porch. Some of our members were Ministry of Transport members and we had to run extension cords from three or four different houses to plug in our coffee pots and we had to pack hot water from over there to wash all our dishes - but we have come a long way since then.”

The IODE (this used to be an acronym but isn’t any more) was begun in Canada in 1900, and Martha (Mrs. George) Black brought it to Dawson in 1914. In keeping with its mission statement “to improve the quality of life for children and youth and those in need through educational, social service and citizenship programs” this year’s donation jar at the receiving line was pledged to the assistance of the people of Eagle, Alaska, whose town was ravaged by a flood just over a month ago.

Later in the day it was reported that donations reached about \$610.00, and perhaps a bit higher after the exchange on the American currency was factored in.

Emcee Gabrielle Sgaga introduced the head table, which included Commissioner Van Bibber and her husband, Pat; Yukon Administrator Doug Phillips and his wife, Dale Stokes; Senior Justice Ron Veale and his wife, Catherine, Mr. and Mrs. Yukon, Ken and Aldene Snider; Yukon Rendezvous Queen Reba Parris and her husband, Joe Beckett.

Commissioner Van Bibber spoke of her love of tea rituals.

“As you might expect, I just love this day, Commissioner’s Day, with the afternoon tea and the evening Ball. Partly because the kid in me still likes to dress up and play.

“Memories of teas past are huge in Dawson City. From the times of the Gold Rush and being the biggest city west of Winnipeg and north of Seattle, to a shrinking population, the Dirty 30s, and the war years, tea was always a mainstay. Tea around the campfire, tea offered when you were visited or you visited another home, rich or poor or, as we are experiencing today. A fancy tea with finger sandwiches, dainties and fine china.

“Fancy tea adds a certain cachet, a refinement, if you will. Now whether you crook your little finger or not is up to you, but we all love to be pampered, as you can see I do.

“Just learning how to balance a cup and saucer is an art. No wonder the English, Japanese and other cultures put such store in their customs surrounding this beverage. Now we are inundated with tea, specialty teas, and tea houses: black, green, oolong, jasmine, peppermint and the list goes on and on.

“A few years ago I was asked to serve tea. Well, needless to say I was excited, because I knew how to pour tea. I saw myself sitting at a proper sized table with a silver tea service and fine china, pouring as needed. But on walking into the door, two jugs of the liquid were pushed into my hands and I was expected to walk about the tables pouring into mugs already set about.

“Well - all my tea grandeur of the day quickly disappeared and I dutifully did my chore. Notice my words - ‘exciting’ to a ‘chore.’ So remember to appreciate the tea as it is served today in a garden setting. If you don’t already enjoy the ceremony surrounding tea, we can learn to treasure the moments of sharing tea.”

She ended with a quotation from Henry James: “ ‘There are few things in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.’ So take care, and where ever your travels take you I hope your memories of a tea party at my residence will be fond.”

Special entertainment for the afternoon was provided by the musical Parks Players, as well as a couple of Robert Service readings by Johnny Nunan.

Two special cakes to mark the territorial birthday were served after the formal speeches and entertainment.



**Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber**

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



**The receiving line at the tea.**

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



**IODE president Myrna Butterworth and Commissioner Van Bibber cut the birthday cakes.** Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



**Parks employees offered up a couple of tunes.**  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



**A packed lawn and porch at the Commissioner's Tea.**  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



**Aldene and Ken Snider are this year's Mr. and Mrs. Yukon.**  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Commissioner's Ball Celebrates Yukon's Birthday in a Lighter Vein**

by Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

June 19, 2009

"Don't we look lovely?" said Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber as she moved to the podium in the Palace Grand Theatre on the evening of June 13.

"This is the most dressed-up ball I've seen and I've been doing this for four years." The chance to see all the gowns and tuxes - well, mostly the gowns - was the reason why dozens of people, both locals and tourists, had gathered across the street at the Old Post Office. Hardly a ticket holding ball goer made it through the door without having someone yell at them to stop and pose for a picture.

After the receiving line, but before the beginning of the ball, everyone was herded outside to show off for the photographers, both official and otherwise.

Inside Gary Parker, executive director of the Klondike Visitors Association, played host for the evening, introducing the Commissioner and her table guests: her husband, Pat Van Bibber; Doug Phillips, Yukon's Administrator and his wife, Dale; Yukon Supreme Court Senior Justice Ron Veal and his wife Catherine; Susan Bowerman, a friend and relation by marriage to the Van Bibbers; son Stuart Van Bibber and his fiancée Nikki Jacques; daughter Ann-Marie Van Bibber; Nikki's parents, Lance and Jaye Jacques; Paul Inglis and Meagan Christie.

Then the Commissioner took over the microphone, with a speech designed to strike a lighter note than last year's 110th birthday ball.

"You get no reprieve from speeches. I had said, 'No, I'm not speaking this year' but they said, 'Everybody wants to hear from you' so, here goes.

"Along with my husband, Pat, I thank each of you for attending, for each of you are very special guests."

She went on to extend thanks to all the individuals and groups whose efforts contributed to making this ball the "want to be at" event in Dawson.

"On this day, 111 years ago, Yukon became a territory in the Dominion of Canada. Yes, we gather to dance, but we're also here to say 'Happy Birthday, Yukon.'

"Due to the stamperds arriving en masse to the gold fields, there was a quick need to define borders and establish order and a large northwest city emerged: Dawson City, Paris of the North. Champagne, ball gowns and luxury items were part of the society of the day.

"Each time I put on my costumes and step back in time, I honour my foremothers. Terrific guys, these forefathers and foremothers, who built this part of the country. I marvel."

She brought the house down with her next line: "I marvel at the agony that women had to go through to get dressed - whilst trying to breathe."

“I marvel at how the men finally turn out all smiles and handsome after kicking and screaming while putting on their outfits.

“And I marvel at how much fun everyone says they had after the event is over.

“I will share a bit of 1898 ballroom etiquette from the era of elegance, the Victorian era, if you please:

“No lady shall accept an invitation to dance from a gentleman to whom she has not been properly introduced. If a gentleman, without proper introduction, should ask a lady with whom he is not acquainted, to dance, the lady shall positively refuse. No lady shall accept refreshment from a stranger, for she would thereby lay herself under a pecuniary obligation. A thoughtful hostess will never introduce a bad dancer to a good one. It is not right to punish one friend in order to obligate another.”

Concluding this list of social no-no’s, the Commissioner declared the ball begin and requested that everyone enjoy every minute.

Music for the ball as provided by the Whitehorse Big Band, which ran through a selection of swing-tinged numbers, some from that era and some newer material reinterpreted in that mode. Catering this year was by Klondike Kate’s. Although there was not a banquet, the food provided was varied enough and tasty enough, both hot and cold dishes, to make up a good meal all by itself.



Dawsonites Ian and Elin MacDonald, Pat and Rob Watt and Brian Stethem

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Whitehorse based Big Band provided an evening of fine music, ranging from the big band classics to swing arrangements of newer material.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Commissioner's Table

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Commissioner Van Bibber kept her speech to the minimum this year.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The receiving line in the foyer of the Palace Grand  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



For locals and tourists not attending the ball, one of the highlights of the evening is seeing what get-ups the attendees appear in.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **Commissioner Honours Ramesh Ferris**

by Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

June 16, 2009

There were no Commissioner's Awards handed out in Dawson on June 13, but Commissioner Van Bibber did not let the occasion slip by without celebrating a particular kind of bravery and community service.

"I have a story of a tenacious young man," she told her audience at the Tea.

"On April 12, 2008 this young man left Victoria British Columbia and 173 days later, October 1, he arrived at the Cape Spear Newfoundland.

This might seem ordinary, as many of us travel across Canada, but we usually go by train, plane, or automobile.

"This fellow decided to add a wee bit of a challenge to his journey:

he traveled by hand cycle. You see, he has polio, a strange word in 2009, but those of us of a certain age know many people who were stricken with the disease during the 1950s.

"Most Yukoners know his name. For our out of territory guests, his name is Ramesh

Ferris.

“Ramesh has never let polio slow him down and he’s always smiling and giving. We are the ones blessed to be part of his campaign to eradicate, educate, and rehabilitate.

“Getting rid of polio from the world seems like a lofty goal, but he doesn’t think so. So with assistance and support from a core team, many Yukoners, and people from across our great country, he made it in fine health and is looking to continue his message.”

The Commissioner eventually became involved in Ferris’ Cycle to Walk project as the honorary chair of his group. While that phase of the project may have ended, the work goes on.

Ramesh has spoken to me about trying to think of ways to continue his initiative, to raise awareness and money,” she said. “I can’t raise funds or support one group over another, but I can lend my name to show support if I believe in the cause and the guidelines that drive that organization.

“There are so many walks, runs, and drives to support everything you can imagine, but when someone is so passionate and driven by his own personal experiences and firsthand knowledge of polio in his young life, Ramesh has no problem getting my commitment and support.

“Today, on Yukon’s birthday, I present to him a certificate and a gift from me, and as Commissioner I want to extend (a wish) for continued success with your campaign and to wish you well in whatever you take on in Yukon, Canada, and the world.”

The 28 year old Ferris was caught a bit by surprise and obviously delighted to have his cause championed so publicly.

“Thank you so much, Commissioner Van Bibber,” he said after the two had exchanged a handshake and a hug. “I’m honored, I’m surprised.”

He told the crowd a brief story about the way in which Van Bibber became involved with his project.

“I was in Victoria, and I was just in a grocery store. It was before the campaign started, and the Cycle to Walk Society was about to give a formal invitation to Commissioner Van Bibber to be the honorary chair for the campaign.

“It surprised me because here I was in Victoria, and I see Commissioner Van Bibber in the same grocery store, in the same aisle with her daughter.

“I was able to say ‘Would you be able to help? This is my dream. Would you be able to come on board and be a part?’

“She did not hesitate at all. She just said ‘I would be honored’ and it’s been such an honor to have you as part of the team - and it means so much to know that you and the rest of the Yukon will send a message and continue to send a message to the world that we need to work together as a global community to eradicate polio once and for all.

“So thank you so much.”



Commissioner Van Bibber honoured Ramesh Ferris at the Commissioner's Tea.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



The Commissioner's hat got in the way of the first hug, so she removed it and did it again. Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **It's John Gould Day in Dawson City**

by Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

Monday, June 22, is John Gould's actual 90th birthday, but with the Solstice and Father's Day falling on the Sunday, friends and family could not resist arranging a special celebration for Dawson's honorary historian. And where else could this event take place but at the Museum, which has been one of John's key interests over the years.

John and Madeleine had no choice in the matter. RCMP Corporal Karina Watson arrived to take them into custody shortly before 6 p.m. Cuffed and escorted to the official vehicle, the nefarious couple were ferried around the town before being dropped off at the scene of the caper, where the rest of their gang had already gathered.

Shortly after the Goulds arrived and were seated on the birthday thrones Mayor John Steins appeared bearing a proclamation which had been passed at the previous week's council meeting, proclaiming the 22nd as John Gould Day in honor of his many services to the town and to the preservation of its history.

"90 is no mean feat," said Steins, "but it's the new 75."

"Thanks everybody," said Gould. "I've never had a birthday party like this before, but I'm gonna have more. Thank you all for what you're doing and what's been done. I'll never forget it."

History hunter Michael Gates called John his mentor and said that he would never have made a career without John's help.

"John very patiently, very kindly, took me under his wing and taught me many things."

Rob Watt, retiring Superintendent of Parks Canada, said that John was invaluable in his role as an unofficial advisor and a member of the town's planning board, "where he could fill you in on all the little details that nobody else knew about."

John has been, Watt said, one of the key players behind a project to improve the interpretation at the Discovery Claim, which should come to fruition next summer.

Kathy Gates attributed much of the survival of the Museum itself (housed in the Old Territorial Administration Building) to John and his circle.

"I have a sense that this museum, and this building, would not have been restored and still standing if it wasn't for some of the early people, such as John, who got in there and supported the museum every which way they could."

The party dinner was John's favorite food: macaroni and cheese, served with a side salad, and the dessert was certainly the town's biggest blueberry pie, made up in a couple of cake pans, along with a cake, inscribed "Happy birthday to one of Dawson's favorite antiques."

John, still the feisty octogenarian for one more day, wrapped up the event with a short speech in praise of his wife, Madeleine.

“This lady here has been my wife, and she’s been fantastic, allowing me to do all these things and helping tremendously.”

He described the difficult life they lived out on the creeks while he was still mining regularly during the summers for 23 years at Nugget Hill, where there were no amenities.

“She raised three children ... was a great mother and she cooked for the people who were working with myself and my father - and she’s not a pioneer? I don’t believe it.”

John was referring to Madeleine’s long and unsuccessful struggle to become a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, a struggle which he has always supported.



Cpl. Karina Watson slipped the cuffs on both John and Madeleine Gould to make sure that John could not escape his fate.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



A precautionary search seemed in order, but Madeleine warned the Corporal to be careful where she put her hands.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



At the Museum friends and family had arranged a birthday surprise.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



Mayor John Steins presents the John Gould Day Proclamation to the birthday boy.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)



A certificate from MP Larry Bagnell.  
Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

# Proclamation

Whereas on this, his 90th birthday John Gould is recognized as Dawson City's preeminent historian

And

Whereas his knowledge of the great Klondike Gold Rush is unsurpassed, of which he gives freely and generously

And

Whereas John Gould's contribution to the cultural wealth of the entire Yukon Territory is immeasurable

And

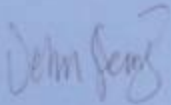
Whereas his dedication to the Yukon Order of Pioneers and his tireless volunteerism over many decades has made Dawson City a better place for everyone

And

Whereas the frequency of his and Madeleine's return trips to Whitehorse reveal an energy that far surpasses many a younger Dawsonite

Therefore... On behalf of the Council of the City of Dawson I John Steins, Mayor of Dawson City hereby proclaim June 22, 2009 to be John Gould Day in the City of Dawson.

John Steins,  
Mayor



The proclamation.

Photo courtesy Dan Davidson [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

## **MESSAGE FROM GILLIAN CAMPBELL**

Dear Sherron, I did so enjoy the Moc Tel, as Dick [Stevenson] sent to me as a gift his book, and he addressed it to “the Song Bird of the North”, that is what he called me back in 1967, when I first went up to Dawson.

I can remember my sons and I they were so little, and we were on the Ferry going across for the ride, and Jason’s beloved Cowboy hat came off and went off down the River so Dear Dick stopped the boat, and turned it around to pick up Jason’s Hat, such a kind deed to do for a little boy.

I am sorry he isn’t feeling too well, but he is in great shape for his age, and still going strong, and I really enjoyed his book too, what a treasured keepsake.

Hugs to you and Bill, Love Gillian and Thank you.

Gillian Campbell [gillianklondikekate\\*shaw.ca](mailto:gillianklondikekate*shaw.ca) (In Burnaby BC)

## **NEW ADDITION – Last edition**

I was born in Dawson, a second generation Yukoner. My grandfather John Edward Farnworth Hoggan (Ned) went north in '97 and never left. My grandmother joined him the next year. He worked for many years on the river boats. He had been a master mariner and sailed all over the world. My mother, Marjorie was the youngest of their 6 Yukon born children. My dad, John Stevenson (Curly), went north in 1932 and died in Whitehorse where he is buried. We, including my sister Roberta (Bobbie), lived in Bear Creek until 1945, lived outside for 2 years and went back in 1947 when my dad started working for the Army on the Alaska Highway. By 1960 we had all left, but trips back have always been important.

Joann Robertson [joannr6\\*shaw.ca](mailto:joannr6*shaw.ca) (In Vancouver)

## **OKANAGAN YUKONERS PICNIC**

The Okanagan Yukoners’ Picnic was held in Summerland on June 21, 2009. Since this year’s picnic date coincided with Fathers Day and the weather was overcast and cool, the turn out was not as good as the previous few years.

The following photos are courtesy of Bill Jones [ve7yi\\*shaw.ca](mailto:ve7yi*shaw.ca) (In Vernon)



Sharon & Al Sowden (Keremeous)



(Didn't get a photo of auntie Ruby Woolger, left of) Bev (Scheck) Chouinard



Butch Chouinard, Al Sowden, Ted Woolger, Val Scheck



Joan (Callison) Rodschat & Marc Steinbach



Sherron Jones, Jim Austin (Vernon) & Ted Woolger (Creston)



Marc Steinbach (Kelowna) & Sharon Sowden (Keremeos)



Al Sowden, Betty Chapman (formerly from Dawson – daughter of Mattie and Chappie – now in Keromeos), Winona Scheck



Joanne Langevin & Myrt (formerly Raymond) Acton



Ed & Judy Glowa



Ingrid Dick



Bud Berg



Neil & Frances McLeod (from Duncan)



Sheila Becker & Sach Kanayama (both from Penticton)



Sue & Doug Morrison (Vancouver)



Al & Marion Ashby (Kelowna)



Joan (Callison) Rodschat (Penticton) & Jim McCausland (Surrey)



Fred & Barb Aylwin (Vernon)



Dave Perks (Grande Prairie) & Shirley (McDonald) Turton (Kelowna)



Joan Chalmers (Oliver)



Larry Chalmers (Oliver)



Sue Morgan (Kelowna) & Tina Simpson (Grande Prairie)



Marie (Fisher) Morgan (Kelowna)



? (Shandalla) &



Myrt (Raymond) Acton (Kelowna)



Fred Mandl and Solange (Peachland)



Maribeth Mainer and granddaughter Kyra. (from Burnaby)  
Seen in the background here and not in other photos – June Austin & Ruby (Bowers)  
Woolger



Carolina (Scheck) Hopkins & Marc Steinbach

## **Dawson Rallies to Assist Eagle**

by Dan Davidson [uffish\\*northwestel.net](mailto:uffish*northwestel.net) (In Dawson)

June 25, 2009

Dawson's volunteer work crew was completely flummoxed by what they saw when they arrived in Eagle, Alaska on the first weekend in June.

"I've never seen anything like it!" reported Mike Crelli in an article written by Dawson's City Manager, Eldo Enns, for the Klondike Sun.

"There isn't one of us who doesn't agree," Enns continued. "Cars, houses, and trees tossed every which way, smashed, twisted, crushed, flattened, ripped apart, shattered, and broken. Absolutely devastating and overwhelming!"

The old Indian Village upstream from the current town, has been completely wiped out. Locals say that bits and pieces of St. John's Episcopalian Church can be found, but you'd have to know what they are to identify them.

"It wasn't the flood waters that destroyed three dozen homes and buildings in Eagle, Alaska. It was the ice," Enns wrote. "One cubic foot of ice weighs an astounding 60 pounds, a formidable force once it starts moving. Even now huge pieces of grimy ice

remain everywhere, creating a mud bog as they slowly continue to melt a month after the debacle.”

That first Dawson’ work crew, six men, one woman and a teenage boy, discovered to their surprise that they were the first people from outside of Eagle to show up to help.

“Except for the Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, who is providing food, Eagle is receiving no support for their catastrophe,” Eldo wrote.

“They've managed to raise \$17,000 locally, less than 1% of what is required to clean up and rebuild. They appreciate our help and they could certainly benefit from more of it.”

“Their predicament is colossal; it's difficult to know where to start. Contacted on June 25, former postmaster and Percy DeWolfe Race Marshall John Borg said that federal and state officials must have made about seven flights into the community so far, but these fact finding missions have yet to produce tangible results.”

“The ice bergs have melted away now, he said, except in a few shaded places, but the task of sorting through the debris and salvaging what can be reused is still going on.” Jack Vogt points out, “Our small crew showed people what could be accomplished by a few volunteers in a short period of time. Perhaps that's the hope that people need to begin.”

On June 4 they met with Andy Bassich, the former navigator for the Yukon Queen II, and were put to work dismantling buildings and cleaning up. Some of them spent the weekend at Nick and Jean Turner’s house, taking it apart and salvaging what pieces they could for later work. Nick, along with Charlie House, built the Klondike Spirit paddlewheeler that now lives and works in Dawson City. Others worked at the battered Falcon Inn, owned by Charlie and Mary House.

A letter from Eagle residents to the Klondike Sun describing that same weekend begins:

“Residents of Eagle got a lesson in the power of Friendship and Compassion when the Volunteer group headed up by Jack Vogt arrived in Eagle. The folks in Eagle described this group as the Dawson Destructors because they were busy taking things part.

The Folks of Eagle were impressed with the eagerness, great attitudes, and good will shared by our up River neighbors.” As they prepared to head down the Taylor Highway we heard John Lodder say, “We Will Be Back, and we hope we can be Constructors next time.” So do WE.

Since that first trip, two more contingents of Dawsonites have been to the beleaguered town. The next week Arctic Inland Resource’s Bill Bowie arrived with truckloads of aid, including donations from the

Downtown Hotel: lumber;

Triple J Hotel: bedding, blankets & paper products;

Eldorado Hotel: bedding & blankets;  
Bonanza Meats: food & paper products;  
Seawolf Enterprises: freezer & generator on loan;  
Bill & Helen Bowie: chairs, Coleman stoves/Fuel, and TVs;  
Arctic Inland Resources: Truck load of slab wood;  
Eureka Gold Mining: stoves;  
Max Bowie: 6 Bags of Dog food.

On June 25, Fire Chief Jim Regimbal, who is coordinating efforts here in Dawson, passed on word that the Yukon Queen II was supplying a case of bug dope (lots of mosquito breeding ponds from melting ice).

The IODE has purchased a Paslode framing nailer and it will be sent along with nails and gas cartridges purchased by the Female Order of Pioneers.

The Dawson City Firefighters have raised money to buy a generator for Eagle, that equipment being supplied at cost by Arctic Inland Resources.

The next Dawson work party will be heading out on July 4. Interested workers should contact Jim Regimbal at 993-7400.

Photos by Alex Brooks and Jack Vogt



Alistair Findlay-Brook stands beside an iceberg inside the remains of the Eagle General Store



Vehicles flattened by the encroaching ice in early May



A flattened truck



Eldo with a heap of destroyed equipment



A damaged house



More damaged buildings



Dismantling the damage.

## **CANOL ROAD PIPELINE REMOVAL**

Hi Sherron I was just checking your updated list as wanted to get Hal Tetz phone number as he asked in your last Moc Tel if there was any one still around that hauled pipe off the Canol road I couldn't believe my eyes as I was 19 years old at the time am now 81. I have tried e-mailing him but no answer could you try and see if you can reach him for me bet we could tell some great tales as I owe you some any how.

Thanks Bill

Bill Braga [bill.braga@live.com](mailto:bill.braga@live.com) (In Sherwood Park AB)

*Hi Bill*

*Have sent a message to Hal who is also in Calgary and asked him for his phone number. Think he said before that he is in NW Calgary.*

*Just checked CANADA 411 online and found this.*

*Please do make some notes and write something for the MocTel.*

***Tetz Hal***

*403-289-6525*

*4732 Nordegg Cres NW*

*Calgary, AB T2K 2M5*

*Sherron*

Thanks Sherron will look Hal up as I will be going to Calgary next week as I now live in Sherwood Park but am thinking of moving back so will have Madeleine [(Millen) Wakefield] to do my writing for me thanks to the Moccasin Telegraph. We found each other after 47 years not knowing where we were. Thanks again you can print this if you like. Hope others try finding the Moccasin Telegraph to find old friends.

Bill Braga

Hi Sherron just talked to Hal on the phone I had his e-mail address wrong but have it right now thanks to you will visit with him when I go to Calgary thanks again. Bill

### **It's happy trails for the owners of Trails North**

**Whitehorse Star** on June 26, 2009

By Justine Davidson

For decades, Trails North has welcomed travellers coming into Whitehorse along the Alaska Highway, but next Tuesday, the doors will be locked for good.



Photo by Vince Fedoroff

**POPULAR TRUCK STOP PACKS IT IN - Murray Swales (right) is seen with two of his three cooks, Leo MacKeigan (left) and Rick Lindgren.**

'They make it happen,' says Swales, who plans to close the business next week.

For decades, Trails North has welcomed travellers coming into Whitehorse along the Alaska Highway, but next Tuesday, the doors will be locked for good.

Murray and Donna Swales have made the decision - a difficult one, but the right one, according to Murray - to close their business.

The popular truck stop - which includes a cafe, an off-sales and a gas bar - has been up for sale for about a year now, but the right buyer hasn't turned up, Murray told the Star Thursday.

The Swales made the decision to sell after a year of unsuccessfully searching for a full-time manager.

After that, they asked their daughter Katy to come in and help them run the place while they looked for a buyer.

Although some interested parties have come forward, no one offered a price that matched the property's value.

"That was Plan A," Murray said of an offer for the business, buildings and three acres of property made Monday. "Plan B was to shut it down, and we're moving to Plan B."

Donna's health is poor, he said, and the couple has decided they have to switch their focus from work to health right away.

"If there's no quality of life - if you're sick and you're putting all your energy into work - then you have to look at why you're doing it."

He said the couple watched a pair of close friends make a different decision, a decision to keep working, and watched them waste away.

“That’s not going to happen to us,” he said.

Although their lack of management combined with Donna’s health is the main reason behind their decision to close, there are other factors.

The Western Canadian Lottery Commission’s recent move to take all Keno monitors away from lottery vendors was a hard blow to Trails North. Not because of the lost income, Murray said, but because it took away something that was important to customers.

“It was like an extension of their living room,” Murray said of the cafe. “When they’d come in, they’d play Keno, have a cup of coffee or a meal. It was a gathering place for a lot of the older folks out here.”

He dismissed the commission’s assertion that the monitors contribute to gambling addictions.

“That’s ridiculous,” he said.

His attempts to keep the monitor up were disheartening, he said.

“I met with their board and tried to explain my position but they’d already made their decision - I could see they didn’t really listen to what we had to say.”

So the Swales are retiring.

Telling their 16 full-time employees about the decision was the hardest part, Murray said.

“They took hearing it about as hard as we took it telling them,” he said. “They’re the ones who made it happen here. It’s their place as much as it is ours.”

At least one of the cooks will continue to use the cafe’s kitchen for his own catering company, Murray said, and the whole business will be ready to go for anyone who wants to step into the Swales’ shoes.

“We’ll keep a couple people on here to help us clean up,” Murray said. “Then we’ll all just be moving on.”



One day, the father of a very wealthy family took their son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son,  
'How was the trip?'

'It was great, Dad.'

'Did you see how poor people live?' the father asked.  
'Oh yeah,' said the son.

'So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip' asked the father.

**The son answered:**

I saw that we have one dog and **they had four.**

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and **they have a creek that has no end.**

We have imported lanterns in our garden and **they have the stars at night.**

Our patio reaches to the front yard and **they have the whole horizon.**

We have a small piece of land to live on and **they have fields that go beyond our sight.**

We have servants who serve us, but **they serve others.**

We buy our food, but **they grow theirs.**

We have walls around our property to protect us; **they have friends to protect them.'**

**The boy's father was speechless.**

Then his son added, **'Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are.'**

Isn't **perspective** a wonderful thing??

Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.

## ARTISTIC TALENT



### **Rejoice**

Created by Madeleine (Millen) Wakefield

Image courtesy Madeleine Wakefield [mwakefield@shaw.ca](mailto:mwakefield@shaw.ca) (In Calgary)

Their skeletal structure is made with pipe cleaners and sometimes floral wire added to the pipe cleaners for strength. Only Cherish doesn't have this wire. The faces are made of rocks found along the river and covered with a sheer fabric.

Madeleine

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note I've changed my email address effective immediately to [mccomb.watson@telus.net](mailto:mccomb.watson@telus.net)  
There is a bit of a learning curve, so please bear with me while you update your address books.

Thank you, Peg/Margaret (McComb) Watson

## NEW ADDITIONS

I lived in Yukon from 1953 until 1987 with residences in Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson City at various times, and my son "*Atticus Gerard Garant*" was born at Whitehorse General hospital 25 years ago today.

Could you please advise me as to how much the annual dues are for the Moc-Tel and I will send you a check for the amount as long as I don't have to re-mortgage my house to buy your subscription (joke).

My (retired) father and one sister presently live in Vernon my sister Evelyne and her husband own Vernon Downtown Cleaners and I do go up to visit them from time to time. I just read through your #286 issue and that sure brought back a lot of pleasant old memories of my years in Yukon.

Yours truly,  
Gerry Garant

Millennium Equipment Consulting Inc.  
3089 Goldfinch Street  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T-5J4  
Phone 604 854 3420  
Cellular 604 908 6510  
Email [ggarant@shaw.ca](mailto:ggarant@shaw.ca)

PS: I am semi retired myself and presently enjoy living in the Fraser Valley.

Leon Garant was the baby of my family (passed away 10 years ago) in Prince George and the sister currently living in Vernon "Evelyne" is the one just a year older than Leon (buried in Vernon).

I drove for White Pass from 1959-1969 out of Whitehorse Highway division.

Evelyne is married with Bill Harder born and raised in the village of Old Clayburn here in the valley on the edge of Matsqui Flats.

Please find enclosed my check for \$40.00 to cover the annual dues for Moccasin Telegraph; this will pay for myself and my father **Donald Carmichael** is presently living in Vernon.

Don's email address is [don1389@shaw.ca](mailto:don1389@shaw.ca) and he lived in Yukon from mid 1955 until 1970 when he and my mother moved to Williams Lake.

I have sent my father a copy of this letter via email and if you call him to verify that he

doesn't mind if you post his name and phone number in the Moc-Tel, as I know he will enjoy the contents of the newsletters of Yukon.  
You can reach Don in Vernon @ **250 558 4660**.

Best regards.

Gerry Garant

*Just talked on the phone to Don Carmicheal – he worked at New Imperial Mines (later Whitehorse Copper) and also worked at the mine in Keno. – Sherron*

## **REMOVED FROM THE LIST**

Hi Sherron; Wanted to let you know we are on the move and would like to suspend our MocTel for now. Thanks to you and all the contributors for the fond memories.

Regards

Al & Marion Ashby

ASHBY, Al & Marion [aamink@telus.net](mailto:aamink@telus.net) (Al in Whitehorse for almost 40 years – 1995)

Hi Sherron, Could you please remove me (for the next year) from the MocTel subscription list. I will not be renewing my subscription for the next year. I am currently having a number of health problems, one of which is I am unable to use my arms or sit at a computer. I completely severed the main tendon last year in one of my shoulders and since then I had a bad fall and my shoulder has gotten a lot worse, plus the other shoulder is now acting up and I have to have a series of surgeries (to remove the AC joint in one shoulder, and possibly in the other one too), and I am also scheduled for a series of shots in my lower back at the hospital pain clinic in Victoria. All this is scheduled over the next year or so and I am told not to use the computer or sit at it. Also, I cannot hold a phone for long, either. Talk about feeling useless! Anyway, the pain is quite excruciating just typing this message, so I will do what I am told. Assuming all goes well for me over the next year, I will likely renew my MocTel subscription next year. I enjoyed the MocTel when I was able to sit at the computer and read it. Sorry to do this, but there is no point in subscribing for something I can't even read or enjoy right now. Best to you & Bill and will be in touch when things improve.

Best regards,  
Trev.

Trevor Bennett

Phone/Fax: 250-629-3093

BENNETT, Trevor & Monica [trevbennett@shaw.ca](mailto:trevbennett@shaw.ca) (In Whse, Mayo 1963-64 and Whitehorse 1967-69) Pender Island

Transmission error – unable to connect.

HOY, Vic [vichoy9@shaw.ca](mailto:vichoy9@shaw.ca) (In Whitehorse) Penticton

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*My mother taught me ESP.*

*"Put on your sweater. Don't you think I know when you are cold."*

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### **Pumpkin Nutmeg Dinner Rolls**

Submitted by Elena Popof [popoff47@xplomet.com](mailto:popoff47@xplomet.com) (In Slocan BC)

Makes 14 rolls.

1/4-ounce package (about 2 1/2 teaspoons) active dry yeast  
1/3 cup sugar  
3/4 cup milk, heated to lukewarm  
7 to 8 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) cold unsalted butter, cut into bits  
1 large whole egg, beaten lightly  
2 cups fresh pumpkin purée (recipe precedes)  
or a 16-ounce can pumpkin purée an egg wash made by beating 1 large egg yolk with 1  
tablespoon water.

In a small bowl proof the yeast with 1 teaspoon of the sugar in the milk for 5 minutes, or until the mixture is foamy. In a large bowl combine well 7 cups of the flour, the nutmeg, the salt, and the remaining sugar and blend in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Add the whole egg, the pumpkin purée, and the yeast mixture and stir the dough until it is combined well.

Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead it, incorporating as much of the remaining 1 cup flour as necessary to prevent the dough from sticking, for 10 minutes, or until it is smooth and elastic.

Form the dough into a ball, transfer it to a well-buttered large bowl, and turn it to coat it with the butter. Let the dough rise, covered with plastic wrap, in a warm place for 1 hour, or until it is double in bulk. Turn the dough out onto a work surface, divide it into 14 pieces, and form each piece into a ball. Fit the balls into a buttered 10-inch springform

pan and let them rise, covered with a kitchen towel, in a warm place for 45 minutes, or until they are almost double in bulk. Brush the rolls with the egg wash and bake them in the middle of a preheated 350°F. oven for 40 to 50 minutes, or until they are golden brown.

The recipe makes 2 loaves of very delicious bread.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **VANCOUVER ISLAND YUKONERS PICNIC**

Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
11am-3pm  
St Mary's Church  
2600 Powder Pt. Rd., Nanoose, B.C.

Hwy. 19 to Northwest Bay Rd. turn at the Petro Can station to Powder Pt Rd. right turn and just over the tracks St. Mary's Church is on your right.

Contacts: Sharon Redmond 250-713-6509 or Harriett 250-714-2774

Hope all is well with you and you will be able to attend. Thanks.

Harriett Butterworth [harriett3@shaw.ca](mailto:harriett3@shaw.ca) (In Nanaimo)

## **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

If you have received this copy of the Moccasin Telegraph from a friend and wish to sign up to receive future editions yourself, the criteria is that you **are or were a Yukoner**.

The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity for folks to reconnect.

There is an annual subscription fee for the Moccasin Telegraph.

– Sherron Jones [sherronjones@shaw.ca](mailto:sherronjones@shaw.ca).

### **MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH**

c/o Sherron Jones  
9205 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Vernon, B C  
V1B 1V8

Phone: 205-549-2736